July 18, 1990

Mr. John Beasley, Chief
Program Development Section
Michigan Department of Public Health
3423 N. Logan, Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Beasley:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Chippewa County Tobacco Coalition based in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

I am employed with an Native American organization called Inter-Tribal Council of Mich. This organization integrates the five federally recognized tribes in Mich. to provide progrramming for Indian communities. Some programs include education, employment, health, mental health, substance abuse, economic development, social services, child welfare, parenting education, and family and individual counseling services. Although the majority of my co-workers are smokers, I am a non-smoker, and feel there is a great need for tobacco reduction in our state and nationwide, but most especially in the Upper Peninsula. We are in an area where we are the target of a great deal of pollution from the steel plant across the river (Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario) and get the air pollution as well from as far as the nickel plant in Sudbury, Ontario. Since Michigan is such an abundant area with its five fresh water lakes and varied wildlife, the time for intervention to preserve our habitat is now, and overcoming the flood of tobacco products in this area is a great start. As a non-smoker and an individual who suffers from mild asthma, I am an active member in the Sault's Tobacco Reduction Coalition and would like to contribute my efforts toward this cause now and in the future.

I strongly support Michigan's participation in this project and hope to see a tobacco free Michigan in the near future. We've come a long way with smoking now being restricted in public buildings and most commercial airline flights and a tobacco free environment can indeed become a reality with continual research and support.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Berardi

Deirdre Berardi
Inter-Tribal Council of Mich.

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